

RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of the meeting of the Fair Trade Working Party held at Greenways on 14 February 2007

Present:

Cllr D Cracknell, Ringwood Town Council

Cllr Mrs Ford – Ringwood Town Council

Liz Spender – Ringwood School

Gill Hickman – Ringwood School

Harriet King, Joe Riley, Hannah Rowlett, Gary Evans, Josie Cridland – Students, Ringwood School

Mrs A Pedersen – Greyfriars Community Centre

Brian Walters – Churches Together

Terry Simpson – Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Brian Terry and Mrs Gwen Henson.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Notes of the Meeting held on 21 February 2006

AGREED that the notes of the meeting held on 21 February 2006 be approved as a correct record.

4. Fairtrade Status

Cllr Cracknell reported that he was pleased to announce that the Town had achieved Fair Trade Accreditation and the appropriate certificate received. He proposed that a colour copy of the certificate be presented to the School bearing in mind the amount of work undertaken by the students.

AGREED:- That the presentation take place at a Sixth Form assembly when Fairtrade is the topic of the day and that efforts be made to obtain appropriate publicity for the event and if possible a Member of the Fairtrade organisation be invited to attend.

<p>Action: School to notify Town Council of date of assembly so that Town Council can make the appropriate arrangements for presentation of the Certificate.</p>

5. Promotion of Fair Trade Goals

A copy of the Feedback Report had been circulated to Members of the Working Party and further copies were available at the meeting. A copy is attached as an Annex to these notes.

In relation to each of the five goals identified in the Feedback Report, the Working Party noted or agreed the following actions. Goal Numbers and sub paragraph identification letters are those used in the Feedback Report of 18 January 2007.

Goal 1

- i) The Town Council's commitment to promoting awareness of Fair Trade will continue.
- ii) The Working Party appointed to implement Fair Trade will continue with its work.
- iii) The Highway Authority had indicated that highway signs incorporating the Fair Trade logo could not be erected. AGREED that the students would look at other locations for signage, accepting that planning consent may be required in some cases. In particular consideration could be given to a sign within the picnic area and also on the notice board adjoining Trow Mill. However it was noted that the Town Council was currently investigating signage generally within the town including pedestrian information points and pedestrian finger pointer signs, and it was also AGREED that the Town Council's Signage Working Party be requested to investigate the possibility of including the Fair Trade logo on any signs that it may seek to erect within the town.

- iv) Agreed that the students would make further arrangements to canvass local shops and cafes about Fair Trade products and also produce literature for distribution to those premises. The Town Council will seek further leaflets and publicity information from the Fair Trade organisation.

Action: Town Clerk – for acquisition of publicity information. Students to canvass shops and cafes

- v) Three Year 10 students are currently working on a Fair Trade Directory. In relation to this item it was noted that the Directory could not include only shops which sold only Fair Trade products. Entry into the Directory would be available to any shops and other premises which sold or served any Fair Trade products.

Action: Students

- vi) It was noted that the Town Council had included an item in its Newsletter published that day seeking expressions of interest from any persons who wished to join the Working Party.
- vii) Students are already organising educational campaigns within the School to deepen people's understanding of Fair Trade. They have already had a Fair Trade Christmas party for the elderly and Year 10 students have been charged with providing a "thought for the day" on Fair Trade which is read at afternoon registration throughout the School. The Town Council was invited to submit a "thought for the day" if it felt appropriate to do so.
- viii) The Town Council has already commenced additional media coverage about Fair Trade and this will continue. It was AGREED that the School be invited to provide a Fair Trade stall for the Town Festival in July. Students would also write an article which it was hoped that the Ringwood & Fordingbridge News would highlight, perhaps linked with an advertising campaign for those selling or using Fair Trade products.

Action: The Town Council would discuss this possibility with the Editor of the newspaper.

- ix) The School had spoken to Sainsburys about providing some sponsorship for a Fair Trade stall in the School canteen on 7 March as part of Fair Trade Fortnight event. There would however be a shortfall in funding for the event and the Town Council was asked to consider making a small donation towards set up costs. AGREED that the Town Council's Policy & Finance Committee should be requested to allocate £50 towards the Fair Trade event to be held in the School on 7 March.

Action: Town Clerk

- x) This item has been linked in with item ix above.
- xi) The initial response from the three major supermarkets in the town had not been very positive although each sold Fair Trade products. AGREED that the Town Council should draft a further letter to the three major supermarkets inviting them to be more fully involved in Fair Trade work in the town.

Action: Town Council

Goal 2

AGREED that Students (Josie Cridland) will take the lead in targeting retail stockists of Fair Trade products. An introductory letter would be prepared by the Town Council for this purpose.

Goal 3

Whilst a considerable number of local workplaces and community organisations already used Fair Trade products, it was AGREED that further leaflet drops should be arranged to organisations in the town which, if linked with a stall at Festival on 14 July, will encourage greater understanding of the Fair Trade initiative.

Goal 4

Media coverage had already been attracted and it was hoped that the actions outlined earlier in the meeting would attract further publicity for Fair Trade.

Goal 5

The Working Party is effectively the Steering Group and it's continuation and commitment from its Members should ensure that the Fair Trade ideal continues to be pursued.

6. Fairtrade Fortnight – 26 February to 11 March 2007

NOTED that this year the major event would be at the School. However it was also noted that other organisations would be holding events in order to publicise the campaign.

7. Role of Working Party

AGREED that investigations should continue into the possibility of adjusting the role of the Working Party to enable it to provide an effective support mechanism to Fair Trade in the town.

8. Membership

AGREED that the Town Council's Newsletter should be used as a vehicle for encouraging other members of the public to become Members of the Working Party.

9. Date of Next Meeting

AGREED that the date for the next meeting be fixed once action on a number of the items referred to at the meeting have been completed.